



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://laccod.org>**

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK TO ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4242)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-2582)

President Janet A. Neal called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

President Janet A. Neal requested Commissioner Carlos Benavides reintroduce himself again by since other Commissioner were absent at the last meeting.

1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro joined the meeting at 1:25 p.m. establishing a quorum.

Present: President Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, Treasurer Winslow C. Reitnouer, Commissioner Carlos Benavides, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Steve Miller and Commissioner Alexia Teran

Absent: Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish

Excused: Commissioner Michael Gureckas, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Kecia Brooke Weller, Commissioner Sheila D. Wright and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of August 20, 2014. (14-3568)

On motion of 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, seconded by Treasurer Winslow C. Reitnouer, there being no objection, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Approve the deletion of term limits in Article VI of the current Bylaws. (14-3615)

During discussion, Commissioner Edward A. Colley posed questions regarding the compliance to the Brown Act of the Commission's Bylaws. Commissioners Steve Miller, Alexia Teran, Winslow C. Reitnouer and Carlos Benavides also commented on this item.

Commissioner Edward A. Colley made a motion to delete "President" from those members that can make a nomination. Therefore having paragraph 1 of ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS to read as follows:

"The officers of the Commission shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and a Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected in June, or at the next regular meeting thereafter. Officers can reapply for the same office two (2) years after the termination of their last term in that office. Nominations of candidates for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer may be made by (a) the Nominating Committee, (b) Commission members in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, subject to the provisions for submission of the Declaration of Candidacy form as set forth herein."

After discussion, Commissioner Edward A. Colley added to his motion, a request to refer the Bylaws to County Counsel for a full review of compliance and to request County Counsel report back on his findings at the October 15, 2014 meeting.

Genevieve Clavreul, a member of the public addressed the Commission regarding the Brown Act.

After further discussion, on motion of Commissioner Wendy Welt Narro, seconded by Commissioner Winslow C. Reitnouer, , there being no objection, the Bylaws were approved as amended by Commissioner Edward A. Colley and referred to County Counsel for a full review and report back at the October 15, 2014 meeting by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - President Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, Treasurer Winslow C. Reitnouer, Commissioner Carlos Benavides, Commissioner Edward A. Colley and Commissioner Alexia Teran

Noes: 1 - Commissioner Steve Miller

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish

Excused: 5 - Commissioner Michael Gureckas, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Kecia Brooke Weller, Commissioner Sheila D. Wright and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

Attachments: [Approved Revised Bylaws 2013](#)
[Proposed Amendment to Bylaws](#)

II. REPORTS

3. President's Report for September 2014. (14-3569)

President Janet A. Neal reported that the Janet's Planet Radio Show will continue to air as it has received donations from other sources. She will be working with Maria Bonilla from the City Department on Disability on artwork displays for the ADA25 Access Reception.

4. Monthly Staff Report by Emma De Jesus. (14-3887)

Commission Staff, Emma De Jesus, shared with Commissioners that on March 12, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved expansion of the County's criminal background check program. Commissioners will be notified by Human Resources on the requirements and to schedule Live Scans.

Additionally, she announced the DeaFestival LA will be held at 1:00 p.m. on September 27, 2014 at the City Hall and the Save the Date Flyer/Invitation for the ADA25 Access Reception is being distributed today. Copies of the flyer/invitation were provided to Commissioners and members of the public.

Commissioners were requested to review their biographies and provide staff with updates for the ADA25 Access Reception and for the Commission website.

5. Status report on upcoming ADA25 Access Reception to be held on October 20, 2014. (14-3880)

President Janet A. Neal and Committee members provided the following update regarding the ADA25 Access Reception to be held on October 20, 2014:

- 1. The invitations for the event will be distributed today.**
- 2. A walk through of the 8th floor balcony took place.**
- 3. Nomination requests were submitted to all Supervisors**

Commission Staff, Emma De Jesus, announced that the office of Councilman Gil Cedillo has responded on the request for sponsorship stating a donation will be forthcoming.

6. Monthly Report by Standing Committees:

- Education: Commissioners Troost (Chair), James, Neal
- Events: Commissioners Neal (Chair), Troost, Reitnouer, Teran, Wright
- Transportation: Commissioners Neal (Chair), Reitnouer, Troost, Teran
- Housing: Commissioner Wendy Welt Narro (14-3905)

EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

There was no report given.

EVENTS STANDING COMMITTEE

President Janet A. Neal reiterated the need for participation and support from Commissioners and encouraged them to send to staff, the contact or email addresses of possible sponsorship leads for the ADA25 Access Reception.

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

President Janet A. Neal reported that the Committee discussed the need to review parking enforcement in Los Angeles County including the need to improve its methods of citing violations. She noted, the City of Los Angeles and Culver City have very good plans for parking and should be used as examples to improve its methods of citing violations.

HOUSING STANDING COMMITTEE

1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro stated here request for a report from the Housing Authority is still pending. President Janet A. Neal offered to provide the telephone number of Anne Biondi from the City of Los Angeles Housing Authority. 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro also reported that a new state-of-the-art senior citizens home is opening in Compton.

Member of the public, Mary Jo Fernando, commented on the lottery to obtain Federal housing.

Member of the public, Robert Coto addressed the commission on his concerns regarding living in low income housing.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Receive and File the Access Services, Incorporated Board Box Report and Board of Directors Meeting of September. (14-1989)

Commissioner Winslow C. Reitnouer read the monthly report from the meeting held on August 25, 2014, on behalf of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost.

Following discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Report on In-Home Support Services as submitted by Commissioner Wendy Welt Narro. (14-3888)

1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro announced the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is obtaining signatures to help save the hours for In-Home Supportive Services workers. She added that she visited the new Rancho Dominguez branch site.

9. Monthly Report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customers Support Administrator, Access Services Incorporated. (14-3907)

Louis Burns thanked the Commission for their suggestion to add a telephone number on the Access vehicles to report on how their drivers were doing. This program was determined to be too expensive in the past, however, Mr. Burns will pose the idea back Access Services will report back on the outcome to the Commission at a later date.

President Janet A. Neal suggested Access Services could increase their revenue by placing advertisements on their vehicles to avoid raising passenger rates. President Janet A. Neal also suggested Access Services identify those vehicles that are obsolete and donate or auction them off to the public.

Member of the Public, Mary Jo Fernandez addressed the Commission.

10. Monthly Report presented by Jess Segovia, ADA Manager, and Giovanna Gogreve, ADA Para-transit Program Administrator for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). (14-3908)

Giovanna Gogreve reported the Rancho practice bus sessions for the last two months have been cancelled due to the heat. She informed the Commission that the Access/METRO Advisory Committee (AAC) will be investigating complaints from constituents on the difficulties they are having when traveling on METRO buses, rail stations, on right-of-ways, and platforms, with people who ride bicycles. Codes are in place for bicyclists as well as customer codes of conduct that allow METRO Sheriffs or Los Angeles County Sheriffs to impose penalties or fines on bicyclists who continue to violate codes.

Ms. Gogreve also reported that the Blue Line is being refurbished and will close four stations: Downtown Long Beach, Pacific Station, First Street, and Anaheim Street station for a month. In addition, Ms. Gogreve announced that City of Los Angeles Councilman Curren Price is hosting a senior luncheon at the Los Angeles Convention Center on September 18, 2014. METRO will be attending this event and provide METRO wheelchair users an opportunity to strap and mark their wheelchair for proper tether strapping on METRO buses.

President Janet A. Neal and Commissioner Alexia Teran commented on this item.

Members of the public, Darrell Evans and Gerald Robles also addressed the Commission.

President Janet A. Neal thanked Ms. Gogreve for her informative report.

III. DISCUSSIONS

11. Discussion on the feasibility of the Commission to become a non-financial supporter to Janet's Planet radio show, through KTYM, as submitted by President Janet A. Neal. (14-3886)

During discussion, President Janet A. Neal stated that KTYM has not yet been sold, however, the station is still looking for a buyer. Janet's Planet will continue to broadcast as the program has gained some financial support.

President Janet A. Neal reiterated that Janet's Planet would not be seeking a monetary donation but would instead like to provide listeners with Commission on Disabilities' information such as reading of the Agenda and announcements of Commission events.

Staff , Emma De Jesus noted, a request from County Counsel is still pending on the parameters of the Commission's involvement as a non-financial supporter of Janet's Planet.

Commissioner Steve Miller stated that it is important there be some kind of disclaimer read prior to Janet's Planet making any announcements on behalf of the Commission. This would prevent confusion and document that the radio show is not a function or affiliation of the Commission. He further stated that as long as there is an assurance of some such as, "opinions expressed on this radio show do not represent the position of the Commission; then he would not oppose such support of the show.

Members of the public, Gerald Robles and Robert Coto also addressed the Commission expressing the need for Janet's Planet to be supported.

Following further discussion, on motion of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, seconded by 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, the item was placed on the October 15, 2014 agenda for approval pending clarification from County Counsel.

12. Discussion of the impact that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) has on people living with disabilities by Commissioner Edward A. Colley. (13-4719)

Commissioner Edward A. Colley stated that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) is a Federal Law that passed with good intentions of encouraging employers to provide retirement systems and insurance programs for employees. The act has had unintended consequences for people waiting for approval on care from their health insurance. He added, most people with full-time private company jobs have disability insurance through an ERISA Policy, however, the Policy almost always contains a provision that says “the discretion of the insurance company is final.”

President Janet A. Neal requested Commissioner Edward A. Colley research further information on the matter and possibly invite someone from the Federal Government that regulates the rules under ERISA to also provide further clarification.

Member of the public, Mary Jo Fernando addressed the Commission and shared she once worked with an insurance company.

Commissioners Carlos Benavides, Steve Miller, and Alexia Teran agreed with the need for further discussion. Therefore, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the Commission agreed to continue this item for further discussion and reporting by Commissioner Edward A. Colley and ERISA.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS**Matters Not Posted**

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-3564)

Commissioner Steve Miller reminded the Commission that there was a discussion last month requesting services for people with developmental disabilities. The commission voted to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors and he was requested to draft the letter. Commissioner Steve Miller stated that there was not enough time to place the item on this month's agenda and requested staff place the item on the October 15, 2014 for approval.

Public Comment

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-3563)

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Darrell Evans, a member of the public addressed the Commission regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations within radio stations.

Mary Jo Fernando, a member of the public addressed the Commission on the cost of living increase.

President Neal announced the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) will be having their "Planning for the Future" Workshop on October 2, 2014 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at 634 South Spring Street, Edison Room, Lobby Level, Los Angeles, CA 90014.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment for the meeting of September 17, 2014. (14-3565)

On motion of 1st Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, seconded by Commissioner Steve Miller, there being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.